Slavery not a Domestic Institution.

By a "Domestic Institution," we understand one which affects only those who adopt it. Slavery is the creature of municipal law; and if its effects were not extended beyond the limits of the State which adopts it, it would be strictly a "domestic institution." A State or territory may prefer the civil to the common law; but that would constitute no ground of quarrel or interference on the part of a neighboring state which does not. So, one state may think its interests require banking institutions, or a system of internal improvements; but as these can affect a sister state only in an indirect way, it can have no right to protest against them, or to attempt in any way to overturn them. American slavery would be of that class were it not for that clause in the constitution which makes five slaves equal, so far as the general government is concerned, to three free men.

This clause takes American slavery out of the list of domestic institutions and places it among the political institutions of this country, which, in their growth or decay, affect every citizen. Slavery in Virginia would be a domestic institution with which no citizen of Massachusetts would have any thing to do, did it not so happen that Virginia, with 949,133 free inhabitants, has *thirteen* representatives in Congress, while Massachusetts, with a free population of 45,381 greater, has only *eleven* representatives. How does it happen then, that the free men of Massachusetts are thus out-voted in the House of Representatives? Simply because Virginia has a population of 472,528 slaves. Is slavery in Virginia then a *domestic* institution, concerning which the freeman of Massachusetts has no right to think, speak and act? Certainly not; it is a political institution; and the Massachusetts man has therefore just as much right to strive to circumscribe it, diminish it or abolish it, as the Virginian has to do the contrary.

Alabama has a free population of 428,779 souls, and New Jersey has 489,833; yet Alabama has *seven* representatives in Congress, while New Jersey with 60,000 more freemen, has only *five*. Here we find the 342,892 slaves of Alabama not only sufficient to balance the 60,000 free men of New Jersey, but to give her two representatives beside. In Georgia there are 524,601 free people, and in Connecticut and Rhode Island there are 518,337; but though the free population is nearly equal, Georgia has two more representatives than both these States—because she happens to have 381,682 slaves. Mississippi and Louisiana together have a free population of 569,601, and *nine* representatives; while Illinois, with a free population of 851,470, that is 281,769, more than theirs, has only *nine* representatives, because, forsooth, she has not half a million slaves as Mississippi and Louisiana have. Texas has 154,431 free people, and two representatives; while Iowa with 192,214, has only two—but the latter has not 58,161 slaves, who, in Texas, are just equal to 37,783 freemen in Iowa. Wisconsiu has a free population of 302,329, almost double the free population of Texas, yet the latter has *two* representatives and the former *three*. But Louisiana, with only 272,953 free inhabitants, almost 75,000 less than Wisconsin, has *four!*

In all the free States there is a population of 13,434,798, which is represented in the House of Representatives by 143 members. The slave states have a similar population, a trifle more than one half as large, and yet, instead of having only 71 representatives, the half of the number sent from the North, it has 90, or 19 more! These ninteen representatives are not the representatives of six millions of free men in the south, but of the three millions of slaves.

Can slavery be a *domestic* institution then when it has nineteen voices to speak for it on the floor of Congress? Is it not rather a political institution in which every citizen of the country, whether he be from the North or South is directly interested? Blot out that clause of the Constitution which gives to five ignorant and brutal slaves of Texas, the political weight and importance of three Daniel Websters at the North, and slavery will cease to be a political institution, and will become a "domestic institution," one that would give us no further trouble; then there would be no slavery propagandists at the South howling because a solemn compact of our fathers, like the flaming sword in the garden of Eden, turns every way to keep them and their slaves out of regions dedicated to freedom.

Notwithstanding compromises seem to have fallen into disrepute, and are now pretty generally treated with contempt, we think we could propose one, based on a different principle from any we have yet had, that would go very far toward relieving our good, quiet citizens, both at the north and south, from any further annoyance from the fierce "agitations" we have been troubled with so much in the past few years. The main cause of all these agitations we take to have been the fact, that our southern friends have insisted on having for their *political* slavery all the rights, privileges and immunities of *domestic* slavery. Obviously, then, the true way of stopping these "agitations" is to reduce slavery to a domestic institution in reality, by stripping it of all its political qualities. This could be done by striking out that clause of the Constitution which gives to five southern slaves a voice in Congress equal to three northern free men. By this means we would take away from southern agitators the only reason they have had for desiring the extension of slavery, namely, an increase of political power for their section—a power that, notwithstanding its relative weakness, by union and by adroitly taking advantage of dissessions and party differences at the north, has hitherto succeeded in shaping the policy of the country pretty much so as to suit its own views and interests. Strike out this clause and their occupation will be gone; slavery will be really a "domestic institution;" no one will be interested in its extension but slave-breeders; and no one will be any more anxious to restrict or eradicate it, than to diminish or eradicate intemperance, crime, all kinds of oppression, or anything else which tends to embarrass the material, mental or moral progress of the country.—[Cin. Gazette.

Transplanting Trees,

For the next sixty days nearly every family in the United States will plant one or more trees. How many of these will live and thrive as they should? Scarcely one in ten. Why? Because they are rudely taken up and afterwards stuck in the hard, clayey earth, with limbs and roots torn and ragged. An instance will suffice. Farmer A. has a lane or yard which he is determined to beautify with elms and maples. He goes to the woods, digs up tall, spindling trees, cuts off roots and limbs—throws the trunks on his wagon or sled, and drags them where he wants them. Here he digs in the hard earth, a hole barely sufficient to contain one, and leaves them, hoping they will flourish grandly, *without lungs, stomach* or *food*. Some of them barely live, and a large majority *die* Why does he not use a little common sense, get all the ROOTS he can, clip off a few of the branches, and then dig a hole ten feet in diameter and three feet deep, and fill it with rich, surface soil, placing his tree in it at about the same depth it grew in the forest. Let him do this, and water it occasionally, and our word for it his trees will grow right away, and not one in a hundred die.

How many thousands of fruit trees are planted in poor, thin soil, where they must necessarily starve?

As well expect a pig to thrive when turned into a last year's wheat field. No farmer need spend his money in the purchase of either fine trees or stock, unless he knows how to take proper care of them after they come into his possession.

In reference to shade and ornamental trees, they can be be readily obtained in any neighborhood. We have the pine, poplar, walnut, butternut, linden, red and sugar maples, buckeye, sassafras, gum, willow, dogwood, oak, three varieties of ash, elm, sycamore, hickory, hemlock, and laurel, in nearly all the States.

All of these are either beautiful or picturesque, and if given a fair chance will add greatly to the pleasantness and *cash* value of any premises. Plant a tree, mature it properly, and it "will tell of thee for centuries to come."

Lower California.

A SKETCH OF THE COUNTRY.

The expedition of Col. Walker having attracted attention to Lower California, a description of that peninsula, which we translate from the Eco d'Italia, New York, will no doubt be interesting to our readers. California lies between 112 and 119 deg. of west longitude, (calculated from the Observatory of Paris) and between 28 and 32 deg. 40 min. latitude north. It is an extensive, regular peninsula, which from the southwest of Upper California, extends to a point whence is to be seen the beautiful region of Sonora and Cinola, from which it is separted by the Gulf of California, whose greatest breadth is about 195 miles. This tract of country is bounded on the north by Upper California, on the east by the Gulf of California, and to the south and west by the Pacific. its greatest length is 780 miles, and its breadth 114 miles. Its superfices contain about 46,000 square geographical miles, and its population does not exceed 18,000.—Groups of islets lie near its western and eastern shores.

Throughout the whole length, Lower California is traversed by a great chain of precipitous and naked mountains. Rivers are scarce, and the few that exist have but a short course. The soil is arid and unproductive for a great part, but in certain localities, to the north especially, it is very fertile. Consequently, Lower California abounds in grains, fruits, cattle and game. The waters of its seas and rivers are wonderfully prolific of fish. Upon the shores of the Gulf, are found in abundance the turtles which furnish that valuable article of commerce—the tortoise shell. In some places a beautiful species of whale is found. But the most interesting fact is, that in the Gulf of California, and particularly around the Islands, San Francisco, St. Joseph and Santa Cruz, the Pearl Fishery is pursued with great success and profit by the inhabitants, and especially by the Indians. Cochineal in great masses, is gathered from the trees and plants on the coasts. Rich mines of gold and silver have, in times past, yielded abundantly to their explorers.

The peninsula is provided with good harbors, which will at no distant day be surrounded by important towns. Among the principal, are those of Escondida, Loretta and Mulega; the great bay of Magdalena has also some excellent ones, although now entirely deserted. The towns in this region are few, and all small, the largest, Loreto, upon the Gulf of California, about 270 miles from its mouth, not containing more than 1,000 inhabitants.

The country enjoys a salubrious climate. Upon the seacoast, in the warm season, a grateful coolness prevails, owing to the sea breezes, which temper the burning rays of the sun; in the interior, however, the heat is often intense. The different seasons of this peninsular territory are at almost direct variance with those of continental California; the clear weather here begins in November and terminates in June.

The celebrated Cav. Duhaut Cilly says, "there is not, perhaps, upon the globe a country in which a greater age is attained than in Lower California. Few of these Californians live less than eighty years, not a few surpass even a hundred years, and almost all live to see their fourth generation. The Lower native Californians are sun worshippers, or idolaters, and they are perfectly savage and brutal in their manners and customs. They resemble closely the aborigines of Upper California. The civilized Indians profess Catholicism, and they have intermarried with the Spaniards, who are the only foreigners in the country. We close this account with an extract of a letter from Mr. Prim, an American traveller in this country some years since:

"In a geographical and commercial point of view, Lower California is destined to become an important possession. For a foreign power, the possession of Lower California seems to me more desirable than that of the Sandwich Island group. It contains more tillable soil than that Archipelago, besides pearl fisheries, precious mines, and excellent bays. In the bosom of uncultivated and barren mountains open fertile valleys, among which are those of San Jose, Todos Santos, Connandes, Santa Guadalupe, and others. The Cape of San Lucas, at the southern extremity of the peninsula, possesses a good harbor, very secure during nine months of the year, but open to the east, and impracticable during the months of July, August and September, when the southwest winds blow. A break water could be erected at little cost, which would render it accessible and safe at all seasons. Cape St. Lucas is destined to be the Gibraltar of the Pacific, unless La Paz should be preferred for the advantage of its port."

THE COMET.—This little stranger can be seen a little after sunset in the west, when the sky is not obscured by clouds.

A correspondent of the Boston Traveler, writing from Cambridge observatory, April 3d, says:

The comet, now so conspicuous in the evening near the western horizon, as seen through the great refractory at Cambridge, presents a blazing nucleus and a tail which may be traced to the extent of ten degrees. The tail is curved towards the north, and has a strongly-defined outline about the head and on the south side; but this line is traced with difficulty on the north side. Near and following the nucleus, there is a narrow lane of open dark space. Judging from a rough estimate of this comet's rate and direction of motion, it was probably seen here as early as we could have seen—viz: on the 29th ult. Three observations of its position are required as the data necessary for determining the elements of its orbit, one of which has been obtained at Cambridge.

An astronomer sends to the Nantucket Inquirer the following account of the new comet:—

A beautiful comet, with a bright, well-defined nucleus and train, was observed this evening in the western twilight and near the northern border of the zodiacal light. It so much resembles the one of August last, and its apparent relative position to the sun is so similar to that when first seen, that it might well be taken for the same. The train is slightly curved covex to the south, and the position of the nucleus, as deduced from the time and amplitude of its sitting without the aid of instruments, nearly corresponds with the 17th degree of right ascension, and the 18th degree of north declination.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—A bill has been introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives to provide for a geological survey of the entire State. By this proposition Ohio is to be divided into six districts, and the work to be done by one principal geologist and a sufficient number of assistants. A map at least seven feet by six, engravings to illustrate the final report, the topography of every square mile of territory, assays and so on, are all provided for in the bill, and taxation to the amount of one dollar per square mile—$40,000 per year for the State—to pay the expenses.—Cleve. Herald.

The seventh section of the bill is this:

After the first year of field survey the Legislature shall appropriate a requisite sum of money to purchase (in one tract) one square mile of land; and after the second year of field operations the Legislature shall contract for appropriate buildings to be erected thereon, to be known as the "Agricultural College of Ohio," in which college shall be taught animal and vegetable chemistry, animal and vegetable physiology, geology, botany, agriculture, and all other branches tending to develop and perfect agriculture.

The Census of 1850 is at length before the public, and is announced for sale at the moderate price of $16. It is, consequently, no trifle, either in size or price; nor is it particularly adapted to the breeches pocket, any way. But it is an invaluable work; an immortal one, we may say. Every mother's son with a local habitation and a name, is there. He may not find his name, but if he looks among the millions and finds an odd number, he may indulge the proud consciousness that *he* is that odd number; and the further satisfaction that if, by any accident, he had been omitted among those millions, the entire work would be wrong. Exquisite delight, to be essential to a work that costs $16.—[N. Y. Times.